

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Satoshi et al. (JP 2003-050558).

Applicants submit that the Satoshi et al. reference is not prior art against this application because its publication date of February 21, 2003 is subsequent to the application's priority date of February 5, 2003. Accompanying this Amendment is a verified English translation of Applicants' priority document, thereby perfecting the priority date of February 5, 2003.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted rejection of claims 1-10 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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